

School Dispute In Scotland

Rutherglen, Aug. 27. Protestant parents at Rutherglen, Scotland, today stopped 200 children from attending a school to which 80 Roman Catholic youngsters had been transferred.

Their parents, at a mass meeting last night, declared that they objected to the Roman Catholics being accommodated in the same school as their own children.

The local education authorities had decided to transfer the children because the Catholic school was overcrowded and the other one had some vacant class rooms.—Reuter.

Western Efforts At Trieste Settlement

London, Aug. 27. The United States, Britain and France have formally urged Italy and Yugoslavia to get together soon for final settlement of their differences over Trieste, but neither party so far has committed itself to a decisive move.

The Western approach was first made when the three Western Ambassadors met Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia for a broad review of foreign policy earlier this month.

Italy has been similarly approached and both sides have since been reminded of the importance of the West's attempts to speed solution of the long quarrel in this strategically important area.

Contrary to reports circulated in the past few days, the Western powers have not abandoned concrete proposals for settlement of the Trieste dispute, which they would prefer Italy and Yugoslavia to reach in direct bilateral talks. But they envisage a practical solution which would leave, roughly, Zone B of Trieste to Yugoslavia and all Zone A to Italy, both with modifications.

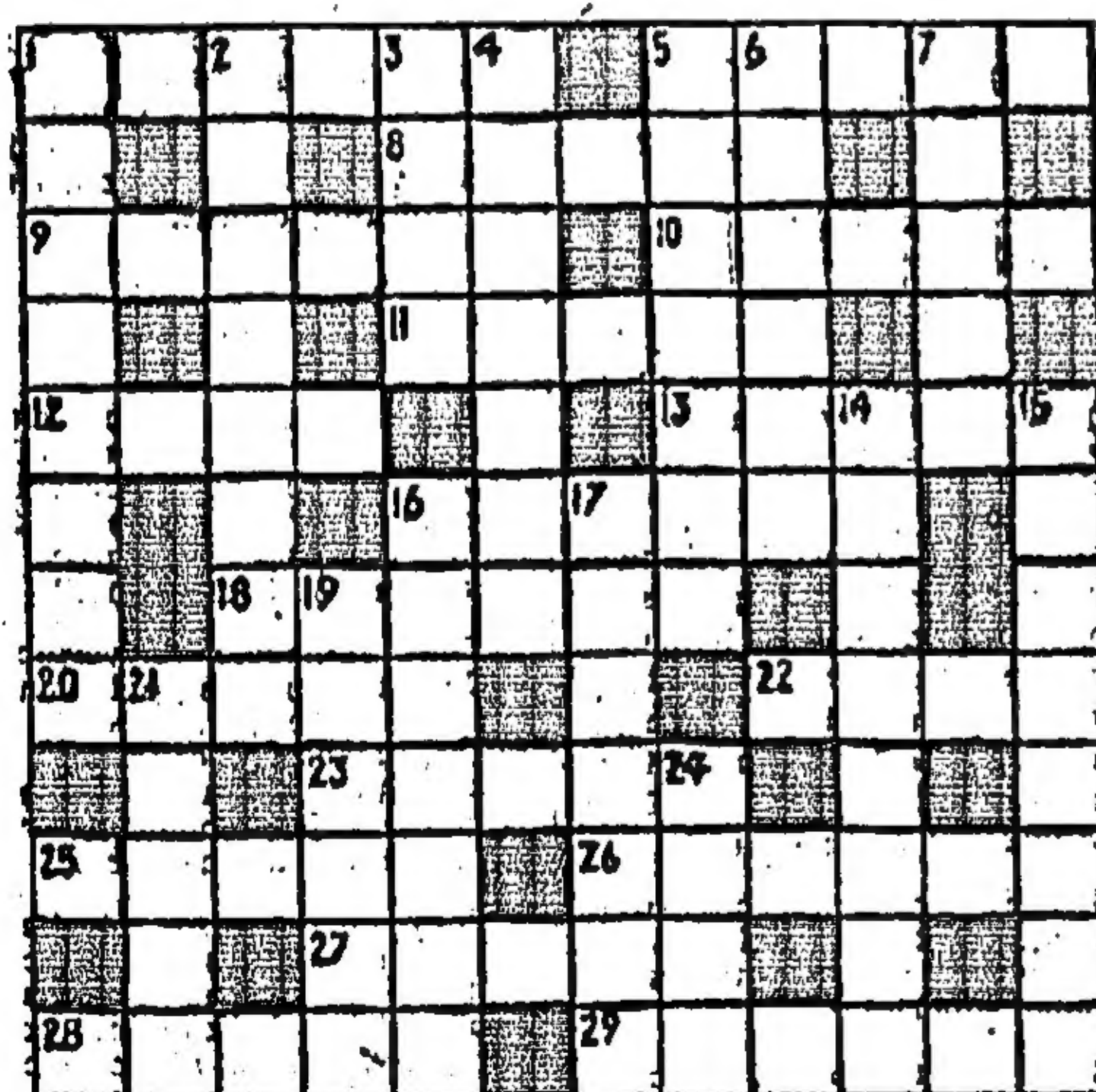
These modifications are based on ethical considerations and envisage that a small strip of Zone A with a Slovene population should go to Yugoslavia while a strip of Zone B with an Italian population should revert to Italy.—United Press.

RECEIVED BY TITO

Briuni, Aug. 27. The British Labour Party Secretary, Mr Morgan Phillips, accompanied by his family, was received here today by Marshal Tito.

They were guests at a luncheon given by the Marshal. The Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Edvard Kardelj, also attended.—Reuter.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS
1 Extend (6).
2 Fruit (5).
3 Gave (5).
4 Scamp (6).
10 Presents (5).
11 Slicker (5).
12 River (4).
23 Catalogue (5).
24 Abandon (6).
25 Rubbed out (6).
26 Having got up (5).
27 Festive occasion (4).
28 Semi-precious stone (5).
29 Being about (5).
20 Decree (6).
21 Command (5).
22 Intends (5).
29 Kind of Hammer (6).

Ship Captain's Dramatic Story Of Disaster

18-Hour Row In Boat To Safety

Newfoundland, Aug. 27.

Captain Frank Collins, owner and master of the schooner James Jones which exploded, burned and sank on Monday 40 miles off the east coast of Newfoundland, led his crew in an 18-hour row to safety on rugged Cabot Island.

Today he gave United Press this account of the disaster:—

"We almost didn't make it. I don't think that any of us had ever been so happy as we were when we climbed out that dory on Cabot Island.

"It was late on Monday, getting on towards evening, when we finally stepped on dry land. Our hands and arms were sore from rowing and we were soaking wet from the steady spray. The Cabot light-keeper helped us ashore. He came out in a boat and gave us a hand. We had been at it something like 16 hours then and most of the time it had been a constant battle to keep from being blown into the open sea.

"We took to the dory around midnight on Sunday as soon as the James Jones started to go up. There had been a small fire in the engine room late on Sunday night and a little later three

THE BIG SCARE

"We are told that the Air Force and Coast Guard were out looking for us on Monday. I imagine they missed us because we had gone further than they thought.

"By dawn we had got almost to Cape Bonaville at the southern tip of the bay. We didn't see anything that we knew to be search planes and I doubt if they could have seen much better.

"The seas were pitching pretty badly. We were just eight miles off Cape Bonaville when the big scare came. We were expecting to make shore in about two hours but the wind changed suddenly and a freshish gale started pushing us back towards the open sea. It took all we had to beat that wind and then some.

"We needed help from that light-keeper. He was a welcome sight."—United Press.

RUSSIAN GRIP ON RUMANIA

Vienna, Aug. 27. Reports from Bucharest said today that Russia has taken over 50 per cent control of the bulk of Rumania's shipbuilding industries and plants manufacturing oilfield and refinery equipment.

Western diplomats here said that the step is one more in a long series of Soviet moves to bind Rumania's economy to the Kremlin war machine.

Bucharest newspapers reported officially that joint Soviet-Rumanian companies have been formed to run the two industries. The "partnership" however, is one-sided. While output officially is split half and half, a Russian managing director in each company has been appointed to decide on capacity and on the distribution of production.

Western diplomats here said this means that Russia can take all or most of the river- and sea-going ships built by "Sovrom Naval" and the oilfield and refinery installations built by "Sovrom Ural" Petroleum.—Associated Press.

President Outlines U.S. Needs

Washington, Aug. 27.

President Truman today praised American labour unions for upholding the "old law of the jungle" in American industry and for their "vital" aid in the world struggle against Communism.

In a pre-Labour Day statement, President Truman said, however, that it was "not enough to celebrate the progress we have made."

He outlined the "needs" of the American people which had not been "but must be" fulfilled.

He said, "Many of our citizens need more adequate protection against great financial hazards, sickness, disability, unemployment and old age.

"We need more and better housing for the growing population.

"We must build up our schools in many areas.

"We must end the discrimination which has cast shadows on some parts of our great record of freedom.

"We must improve our system of collective bargaining to promote industrial peace and productivity.

"We must safeguard national property to keep economy growing. We must safeguard our national heritage against the attacks of totalitarian ideologies both left and right. We must safeguard national security by building strong defences at home and by working with other nations to keep peace in the world."—United Press.

Jet's Feat

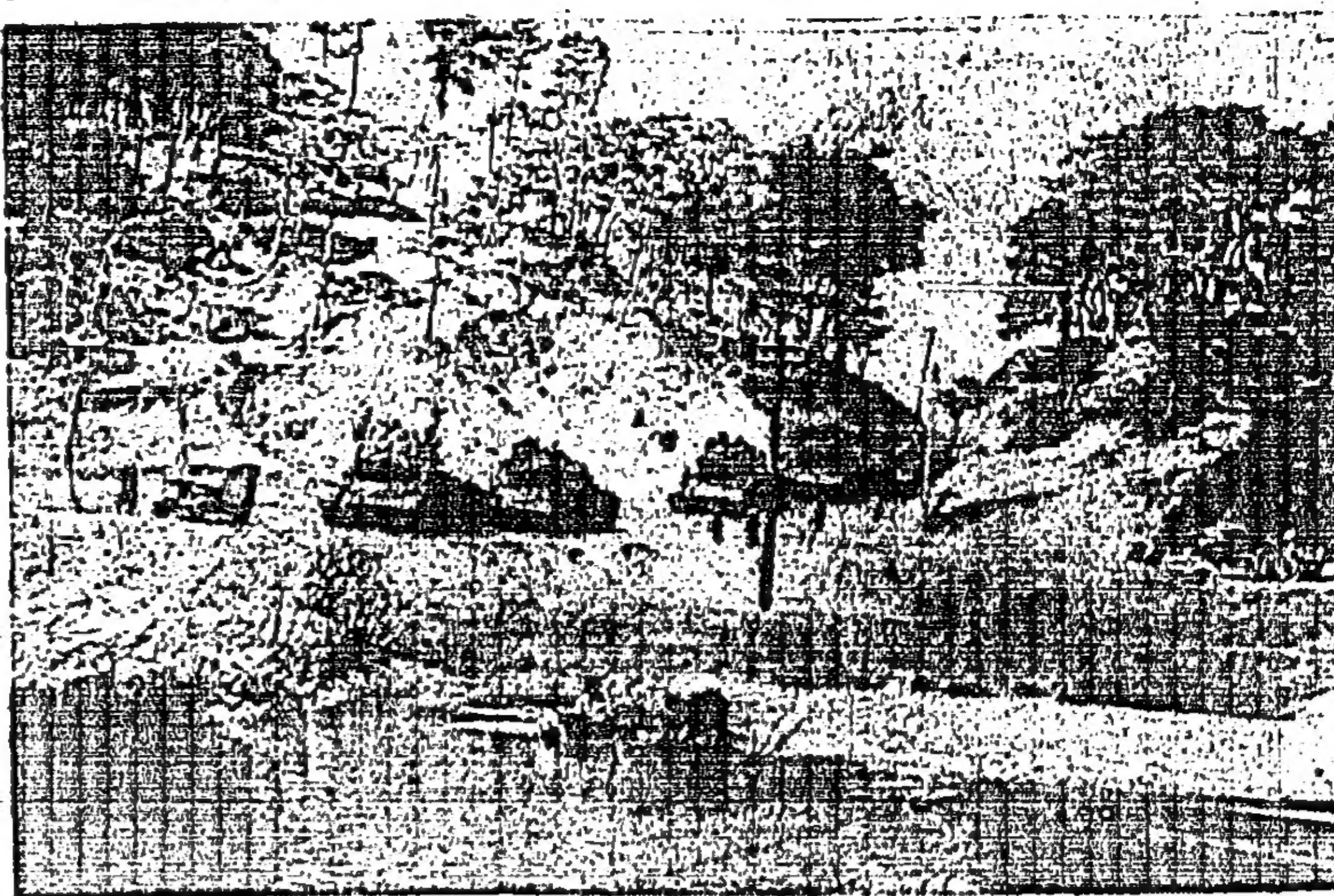
London, Aug. 27.

The Royal Aero Club announced today that Britain's Canberra jet bomber, in its 20th Atlantic crossing yesterday, took seven hours, 53 minutes 35.18 seconds in actual flying time.

Including a two-hour refuelling at Gander, the bomber took 39 hours, 3 mins, 29.28 seconds for the Belfast-Gander-Belfast trip, averaging 411.29 miles an hour.

It was the first double crossing of the Atlantic in a day.—Reuter.

Daily Task As The Tanks Roll By



New Attempt To Solve Impasse Over Tunisia

Tunis, Aug. 27.

Both the Tunisian Premier, Salah Eddine Baccouche, and the French Resident-General, M. Jean de Hauteclocque, have announced their intention of going to France tomorrow.

While the Premier's staff state that he and Mme Baccouche are going to France by ship, and not to Paris for some time, the Residency announced officially today that Baccouche and M. de Hauteclocque will travel together by plane direct to Paris.

Observers here credit Premier Baccouche with a desire to act independently in his consultations with the French Government and regard the Residency announcement as an indication that M. de Hauteclocque intends to prevent this.

Rubber Roads Experiment

Los Angeles, Aug. 27. The first experiment in the use of natural rubber in streets and highways began yesterday.

City crews began laying 2,200 square yards of a rubber-asphalt mixture at the intersection of Figueroa Street and Venice Boulevard.

"Rubber roads" are laid in the same way as pavements without rubber. Mr Harry Fisher, consultant in the project, says the difference is the performance.

He claims the rubber pavement is more elastic, less affected by temperature changes, less susceptible to traffic vibrations and safer.

The five to seven per cent rubber powder added to the asphalt is the same as that used in a road that has been used outside Amsterdam, Holland, for about 15 years with no repairs, Mr Fisher said.

If the same performance can be obtained in this country, he added, it will save the American taxpayers millions of dollars every year.

Subsidized stretches of road have been laid in 17 other States and three Canadian provinces, some more than three years ago.—Associated Press.

Defence Pact Operative

Manila, Aug. 27.

The joint defence agreement between the Philippines and the United States became effective today.

Both countries hailed it as a step to deter aggression in the Pacific.

The treaty went into effect when the Philippines Foreign Secretary, Mr Joaquin Elizalde, and the United States Ambassador, Mr Raymond Spruance, exchanged ratification instruments.

President Elpidio Quirino said that the treaty was a decisive step in making the Pacific safe from aggression.

Mr Spruance said that the United States would regard any aggression against the Philippines as a menace to its own safety.—United Press.

Actress Korea Tour
Tokyo, Aug. 27.
The United States Headquarters today announced that the blonde Hollywood film actress, Audrey Hepburn, had finished her tour with the troops in Korea and would return to Hollywood shortly.—Reuter.

BLACK WATCH SETTLING DOWN IN FRONT LINES

Korea, Aug. 27.

The 1st Battalion the Black Watch, settled in strong dug-in positions here, have two complaints — there is too much mud and too much turkey.

Shortly after they occupied this important section of the Commonwealth Division's front, the weather broke and rain lashed down on the red-clay hillsides.

It needed hard work in the hot steamy atmosphere to water-proof the timbered dug-outs where the men live and sleep. But even in the worst of weather nearly every man was able to sleep dry.

Rations here are provided from American stores and the Scots did not take to them easily at first. Private Robert Chisholm, a company cook of Rown Road, Inverness, complained that there was too much turkey and meat and not enough bread, potatoes and fresh fruit for his men.

The battalion is dug in along a series of bush-covered hills and ridges, on one side of a pleasant green valley. On four hills opposite, known as Malthe, Mark, Luke and John, Chinese Communists keep a very eye on their movements.

During the worst of rains, which have now given way to hot sun, the Scots were cheered by seeing a Chinese hand emerge from a dug-out and pour away can after can of water.

"It's extraordinary," the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel D. McE. Rose, said. "The more it rained the happier my men became."

Another great boost to the battalion's spirit has been news from home that people in Scotland have contributed about £2,000 for the Regiment's welfare. Colonel Rose said that his men have everything they need but they would welcome books, magazines and socks.

IN THE "COCHES"
The Black Watch has a carefully organised system by which ten men of each company return to a rear every day to enjoy hot baths, fresh food and a film show or concert.

At present most of the men work round the clock in the worst in the hot weather, turning over 80 degrees by day, but adequate supplies of winter clothing are available when needed.

Inside their dug-outs—they are called "coches" after the Japanese word for a house the troops are cramped but comfortable. Many of them have photographs of their wives and sweethearts by their bedsides.

When the battalion first arrived here a brisk trade was done in the Black Watch's famous red hacketts, which is in great demand among soldiers hunting Australians, Koreans and Americans. Current price for a hackett here is 10 dollars. Cost in Scotland is 1/6d.

In its first month in action here, the battalion had several minor clashes with the enemy, mainly at night when patrolling took place. A number of Chinese were killed.

Artillery shells fall occasionally on the positions but do little damage as the battalion is well dug-in.

From the first, morale has remained high. Company Sergeant-Major David Hird of Dundee, a veteran of Palestine, the Desert Campaign and Burma said: "They are very impressed by the way they have adjusted themselves. They actually come to me and ask if they can go on patrol. They are itching to go."—Reuter.

LEGION ATTACK
ON ACHESON
New York, Aug. 27.
The American Legion Convention today adopted a resolution demanding the dismissal of the Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, and "those in his department found wanting in the proper activation of their duty to their country."

Adopted overwhelmingly by a voice vote, the resolution declared that the State Department requires "new and stalwart leaders" and asserted: "Our patience is exhausted. We demand immediate attention to this all-important subject. We accept nothing less."—Associated Press.

"Peace Picnic"
Forbidden
Nicola, Aug. 27.
The Cyprus authorities today banned a forest "peace picnic" planned by the Communists for next Sunday.

The reason given was that mass excursions into forests increased the risk of fire.

The 3,000 supporters of the "peace movement" had been expected to take part in the picnic which has been postponed until September 24.—Reuter.

TB Most Fatal Disease In Colonies
London, Aug. 27.
With the partial conquest of malaria — indeed its complete elimination in some places, such as Cyprus — tuberculosis has taken its place as the most fatal disease in the Colonies, comments New Commonwealth Health Conference in its current issue.

As Mr Oliver Ashton, the Colonial Secretary, emphasised in his speech to the recent Commonwealth Health Conference, the fight against tuberculosis is a general social problem and not a purely medical problem.

Overcrowding, lack of fresh air, bad sanitation and poor feeding all contribute to the spread of the disease, and this means that many operations must be employed to combat it, and especially that Colonial peoples must be educated about its nature and treatment." New Commonwealth continues.

Mr Ashton had given several encouraging examples of what was being done with the aid of voluntary and international agencies and governments, referring to schemes and concentrated attacks on the disease in Trinidad, Aden, Singapore, Hongkong and Tanganyika.

"Shortage of staff," adds New Commonwealth, "is a big handicap and great efforts are being made to increase the supply and spread it among the people."

Legless Man's Feat

Washington, Aug. 27.
Andy Gomez, 23, got his driver's license yesterday and everybody who watched him shared his joy. It was quite a feat.

The young corporal lost both legs and an arm in Korea. He plans to take a specially-equipped car back to his home in Alhambra, Puerto Rico, after he leaves the Walter Reed medical centre.—Associated Press.

Muslim Leader's Warning

Karachi, Aug. 27.

The co-partition Premier of Bengal, H.S. Suhrawardy, today told the Press that unless the Pakistan Government opened the way to constitutional changes by modifying their present methods, Pakistan would be threatened with chaos which, he said, was what certain people wanted.

Ninety-five per cent of the Muslim population felt frustrated but remained silent out of fear. They could, he said, burst out and bring chaos if constitutional opposition was not allowed to exist.

He especially criticised electoral methods.

"Clearly there is something wrong when voting papers in the ballot boxes are more than the actual number of voters on the electoral roll or when voting papers in the Muslim League boxes are found folded in bundles and not separately."

He stressed that if the elections were tampered with, the entire fabric of the democratic regime was a fraud and the people would lose confidence in the integrity and capacity of their rulers.

He added that healthy electoral methods existed from pre-partition times when the British organised fair and just elections. The British were not interested as to which party won, he said.—France-Press.

Aerial Survey Of Pakistan To Be Made

Toronto, Aug. 27.

A four-year aerial survey of Pakistan's natural resources, covering about half of the country, is to be undertaken by a Canadian company under a \$2-million contract.

More than 42,000 square miles will be mapped for land improvement projects and 123,000 square miles for geological research.

Time spent in searching for minerals and oils may be cut by as much as 20 to 30 years by using aerial instead of surface surveying.

The company undertaking the project, Photographic Survey Limited, described it as "probably the greatest natural resources inventory ever undertaken."

It will cost \$2,000,000 (£214,000) and be paid for out of the \$10,000,000 (£2,571,000) Canadian contribution to Pakistan under the Colombo South-East Asia Aid Plan.—Reuter.

Underdeveloped countries and amongst backward peoples, this, like other diseases, is but one aspect of the problem of raising the standards of living, health and education, and as such must be tackled with the other diseases which threaten the people.

Obviously success can be achieved only with the full cooperation of the people themselves.—London Express Service.

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London Express Service

WORKERS "GO SLOW" IN THE SATELLITE STATES

By Dennis Bardens

DESPITE bribes for industrial workers who exceed the output target set by the State, and heavy penalties for those who do not, "stakhanovism" (a Russian term for the speeding-up of production by means of "shock workers") is proving a failure in the Soviet satellite countries.

This is clear from recent speeches by Communist Ministers, articles in the controlled press, sentences imposed on workers by Communist courts, and from the accounts of refugees from behind the Iron Curtain.

The proportion of industrial workers among these refugees has risen steadily during the past few months. Of those who have recently reached Vienna from Hungary, industrial workers are in the majority. A similar trend among the Czechoslovak refugees is very marked.

Of those who escaped into the US Zone of Germany during the period May-October 1951, factory workers comprised by far the largest group, the percentage having risen during this period from 20 percent to 43 percent. From January to March 1952, factory workers again predominated (January, 28 percent; February 32; and March 44).

The next highest group of fugitives, curiously enough, consisted of "frontier guards"—a privileged caste in the Communist countries.

GRIEVANCES

ALL told of many grievances: inferior housing, nepotism and corruption among Communist officials, mass political trials and vicious sentences against workers; poor food, and so on. But the most deeply-rooted grievance is the ruthless labour discipline and, in particular, Stakhanovism.

Stakhanovism is an ugly word, and it is repeated ad nauseam in the Communist press. In essence, it is a device to speed up production in backward countries unused to industrialisation. Its introduction in progressive States awakens the fiercest resentment among skilled workers, for it embodies all the evils of exploitation which trade unions in the free countries have fought so hard to abolish. The system can only operate, of course, in a dictatorship under which the trade unions are merely State-controlled labour organisations and all the industrial undertakings State-owned.

The Communists offer prizes to Stakhanovites who exceed the stated production "norms." A few of the more robust and fanatical workers, by methods which often increase the risk of accident and endanger health, exceed their targets and get financial rewards. Their achievements—which are sometimes faked to look more impressive than they really are—are then used as justification for raising the production "norms."

In Czechoslovakia the workers' response to Stakhanovite propaganda has taken the form of strikes, go-slow tactics and even sabotage. In a police State, where arbitrary or secret trial, savage sentences, forced labour and execution are the penalties for disobedience, this shows how serious the discontent must be.

Prace on May 27, 1952, contained a report of an interview with Dr Havelka, Czech Minister of Manpower, in which he declared that people were changing their jobs as often as possible to get the bonus of several thousand crowns granted to newcomers. The Central Committee of the Communist Party by a resolution on October 15, 1951, admitted that the production plan had failed at Ostrava, the coal, iron and steel centre, while Prague Radio on May 22, 1952, claimed that a million workers a year were changing their jobs.

ABSENTEEISM

ABSENTEEISM also appears to be rife, amounting to a tacit, nation-wide "go-slow" plan. A Prague commentator said on September 10, 1951, that 103 million working hours had been lost in this way during the first half of the year, a rise of nine million hours over the corresponding period in 1950. Bratislava Radio on December 27, 1951, said that absenteeism was a disease that had been "less prevalent under capitalism."

The Czech Prime Minister, M. Zapolocky, on June 6, 1952, complained that nearly a fifth of the workers at the Kladno coal mine had failed to report for work in March 1952, and that only 85 percent worked the regular shift on Saturday March 22.

PENALTIES

BOTH the Czech Premier and Prague Radio alternately praise and abuse the workers, but their almost fearful complaints that things aren't going right are a clear admission that political terrorism has not achieved its purpose. M. Zapolocky revealed on October 28, 1951, that coal production under capitalism had been 18 metric cwt. per shift for each miner; today it is 10 cwt.

Nor have savage penalties prevented what Prague Radio on September 10, 1951, called "lack of discipline and low morale." On March 8, 1952, the leader of a strike at Brno in November, 1951, was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment. Seven others received heavy sentences. This strike was caused, as were many others at the time, by the Government's decision to cut-

tail or abolish Christmas bonuses, but resentment is often caused by impossible long hours of work.

The working week at the Auto-Praga works, Liben, for instance, has been increased from 38 to 40 hours so as to complete Soviet export orders. Six workers, including two women, were recently fined 1,000 crowns (US\$20 or £7) for failing to attend small-arms and hand-grenade practice in their spare time!

ABHORRENT

THE fact is that the Stakhanovite system is abhorrent to the progressive independent-minded Czechs. Hence their failure to achieve any of the set targets in the basic industries of coal, iron and steel. Hence, too, the sabotage. (Two sisters disappeared after an explosion which caused serious damage to No. 3 cooling tower at Kostelec power station in March 1952.)

In Hungary a new decree dated April 22, 1952, raised piece-work "norms" to an extent which would never be tolerated in a free country. In

an attempt to justify them, out-of-date statistical methods have been employed, while for the timing tests, it has been said, workers of more than average efficiency are used. Work schedules have been tightened up and the amount of time allowed for rest and toilet reduced to two percent.

Criticism of low output and indiscipline in the mines in Hungary has led the authorities to introduce a system of prizes, pennants, badges and privileges to winners of competitions supposed to be inspired by "spontaneous enthusiasm." A recent directive issued to factory committees stated:

"In order to convert the work competition movement into a mass movement, workers will write letters to Comrade Rakosi containing a solemn promise that they will accomplish their plan..."

Only a few days later, despite their "spontaneous, solemn promise," miners at Tatabanya were accused by Nepsova, the trade union organ, of falling down on their undertaking by achieving only 65.4 percent of the target on their first day.

In Poland and Rumania, too, there is widespread opposition to Communist production speed-ups. In July 1951 machines and tools prepared for a team of "record setters" at a factory at Poreba, Poland, were put out of commission and five workmen arrested. In Rumania a resolution of the General Confederation of Labour in February 1952 said that trade unions must organise "Socialist" (meaning Communist) competition on an even wider scale.

DETESTABLE

SCANTEIA complained on May 14, 1952, that the competition results were disappointing and that Party members had "slackened the political content of the Socialist contest."

By Western standards this mixture of coercion and "enthusiasm" of the workers, expressed in stilted resolutions printed in the State-controlled press, is intended simply to spread the myth of the "happy worker" under Communism. In fact, these speed-up campaigns, with their coerced labour, show a cynical disregard for the workers' own interests. This is matched by the workers' indifference to the projects on which the Communists place such heavy emphasis.

AMERICAN COLUMN FROM NEWELL ROGERS

A BANKER SOME PEOPLE CALLED ROBIN HOOD

New York. **A** HANDSOME banker, William Horley, faced Judge Ralph Smalley to be sentenced as an embezzler.

The judge's conscience had been sorely tried. He had prayed earnestly that he might return a just and honest verdict. For 50-year-old Horley was a leader of the Church, Boy Scouts, and indeed the whole community of Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

THE PLACE loved him. For years he had lent money to little people in need. And that, said prosecutor Alex Eber, had been his downfall.

Eber added: "He is a cross between Robin Hood and a swindler."

Some money had found its way into ventures from which Horley stood to profit. But he lived modestly with his wife and three children.

The prosecutor said he tried to cover up his losses by juggling and playing the stock market. He lost \$253,000.

MANY PEOPLE who remembered Horley's generosity and public spirit wrote to the court asking for clemency to be shown him.

But the judge remembered that there has been a big rise in embezzling all over the country. Sadly he said—ten to 14 years.

Into his own office for the appointment.

Truman and his Cabinet do not go out of office until the end of January, and Lovett says he runs the largest and most complicated office in America.

So the new man should get on the job instantly to share in the delicate task of dividing the military budget between army, navy, and air force.

DONALD LOWE sailed for England in the Queen Elizabeth with a tensing question: will American airports and runways have to be enlarged or altered if and when Britain's jet Comets arrive on them?

To find out, he is going to watch the Farnborough jet show in September.

RENT controller Tighe Woods needed a police escort to get him out of the Detroit hall in which he tried to explain rent controls to angry landlords.

JOHN Barrymore Junior has had his troubles trying to live up to the great Barrymore tradition as an actor. So he sailed on the Ile de France to enter a dancing school. Said Barrymore: "Aunt Ethel Barrymore would shoot me if she knew I was dancing."

TALK is no longer cheap in Congress. It cost taxpayers more than 3,000,000 dollars (just over £1,000,000) to print the words of legislators in the Congressional Record.

EX-ACTRESS Lucille Lortel, wife of wealthy industrialist Louis Schwartz, is going to be a downpour.

sponsor a second tour of Christopher Fry's play about prisoners in a church. "A Sleep of Prisoners."

She hopes to have it played in churches and synagogues of every city, town, and hamlet of America. And she will foot the deficits, if any. But she hopes there will be none. In Chicago last season it took in \$7,000 in one week at a synagogue.

British actor Clarence Derwent has agreed to star. Miss Lortel hopes for a swing of two years around America.

THEY want Groucho Marx to read Koko from "The Mikado" on the stage in imitation of Emlyn Williams' readings from Dickens. There would just be a piano or two for any Sullivan music needed by Groucho.

MOTORISTS are making one record this year which they hate—payment of 2,750 million dollars (\$282 million) in petrol taxes.

TV is earning money at last. It made \$1,000,000 dollars (\$214,000,000 profit on advertising in 1951, compared with a loss of 9,200,000 dollars (\$2,285,000) in 1950. But radio still earns more than TV from "commercials"—61,000,000 dollars (\$22,800,000) in 1951.

A FEW hours after an Apache tribe did their rain dance, an assembly of 10,000 Red Indians in Oklahoma was soaked by a downpour.

Singapore Goes TV-Mad

From Russell Spurr

SINGAPORE wants British television. And at once. Half a million pounds worth of orders are being offered by optimistic businessmen hoping to cash in on the biggest craze since bubblegum.

The trouble began when an English TV team, fresh from a demonstration tour of Slam, set up its apparatus in Singapore's biggest sports stadium. A tiny air-conditioned studio 20 feet by 11 housed the camera. It was mounted on a railway porter's trolley. Engineers behind the glass panel sat in a stuffy box with little more than chair room from the instruments. Repeaters all round the stadium flashed programmes to a gasping, cheering audience.

The "talking tubes" first sprang to life with pictures of the Governor of Singapore, Mr J. F. Nicoll, opening the exhibition. The watching crowds, Malays, Indians and Chinese, leaped up in amazement.

"A miracle," cried a dancer. "Revolutionary," said a student.

"The most sensational advance in entertainment we've seen in years," declared a millionaire, businessman and newspaper owner. He drew up immediate plans for a giant TV station run on commercial lines by English technicians. The cost he put at £185,000.

The new station would beam programmes throughout wealthy Singapore Island (population two million) and take in the southern tip of Malaya. A relay station in Kuala Lumpur, the Federation capital, would later extend coverage to almost the entire country.

The idea has caught on. A report that one British manufacturer was prepared to market sets at £25 each has flooded dealers with inquiries.

"I'll take one in every room," wrote one wealthy merchant. "Reserve me thirty-five."

Singapore has so far seen only makeshift TV programmes. A police band on an open stage provides the tuning signal. It is removed during a quick "fade" and one of the five announcers steps into view. He speaks English, Malay or any of three Chinese dialects. Another three while the announcer moves to the side of the small stage to make way for a song and dance act, a swing band playing "Slow Boat to China," a Balinese dancer, a Chinese opera with clashing gongs and ear-splitting chorus.

The English technicians, stunned by the unfamiliar noise, watch the proceedings with awe. "Incredible," they say. "Wouldn't that give the folks a night back home?"

The Singapore Government looks on with less enthusiasm. At the Governor's special request it has investigated the possibilities of starting television. And the experts' view is: "No TV for quite a long time."

They believe, for instance, that a suitable station would cost double the estimated figure. They believe that commercial television, an enormously expensive business even in America, cannot possibly pay in Singapore. They believe there is insufficient talent in the colony to provide constant programmes seven days a week. And they believe England cannot provide the necessary technicians.

The Government does not want to encourage any business-like plan. It knows the immense value of the TV "showroom" in Asia to the British radio industry. But it does not want a rash of speculation and a costly failure that will ruin TV's prospects here for years to come.

As the Governor told me: "I think television is a good idea, but it is a matter for close examination. Even comparatively wealthy countries like Australia and New Zealand haven't yet solved all the problems. Let's not get too excited, too soon."

